

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### Selected Events July – December 2010

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#### NEWS FROM THE CONSULATE

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#### **Ambassador's Soccer Marathon Starts with Fortuna Duesseldorf**

**December 18 – 19, 2010.** Ambassador Murphy kicked off his super-soccer weekend in NRW on December 18, attending a 2nd league match between Fortuna Düsseldorf and Fürth. Prior to and during the Fortuna game – which took place with snow on the pitch – Matthias Beermann from the Rheinische Post (RP) interviewed the Ambassador and his

photographer snapped numerous pictures, resulting in a half-page "soccer diplomacy" article in the December 20 RP. The Ambassador, together with the CG, then moved on to Gelsenkirchen, in the heart of the Ruhr region, to watch a Bundesliga game between home-town favorite Schalke 04 and FC Köln. The home team won in a stadium packed with over 62,000, with an enormous fan section singing and chanting relentlessly for Schalke. The Ambassador spent much of the first half talking with a reporter from Bild Sport. The evening before, CG Weiner and her daughter stood in for the Ambassador at the first two "soccer weekend" games – Duisburg-Bochum and Mönchengladbach-Hamburg, when flights were cancelled coming out of Berlin. *(Photo shows Ambassador Murphy Soaking up the amazing atmosphere auf Schalke)*



#### **Consul General on U.S. Politics at Historic Petersberg Hotel**

**December 15, 2010.** Consul General Janice Weiner was the special guest at the "Petersberger Gipfelgespräch" at the historic Grandhotel Petersberg hosted by NRW.TV on December 15. Responding to questions by NRW.TV moderator Roger Horné, CG Weiner discussed the impact of the midterm elections on the Obama Administration's future agenda and the challenges both major parties face over the next two years. Commenting on the consequences of the WikiLeaks disclosures on the German-American relationship, she said the U.S. truly regretted the illegal disclosure of ostensibly confidential documents which could even endanger the lives of contacts and place a risk on joint international efforts. She added that the bilateral relationship remained strong. Moderator Roger Horné and the Consul General Weiner also commemorated the late Ambassador Richard Holbrooke whom Horné had interviewed eight times during his time as correspondent in Washington. *(Photo: CG Janice Weiner and NRW.TV moderator Roger Horné)*



#### **Consul General Weiner Discusses Bilateral Relations in Kleve**

**November 23, 2010.** At the invitation of the [German Atlantic Association Niederrhein](#), Consul General Janice Weiner gave a speech on "Current Aspects of German-American Relations after the Midterm Elections" in Kleve on November 23. Among the audience were Kleve Mayor Theodor Brauer, the chairman of the Association Lambert Engelberts and Dr. Kurt

Kreiten, chairman of the [Kleve-Fitchburg sister city partnership](#). Consul General Weiner examined the bilateral relationship in the broader context of U.S.-EU relations and explained the U.S.

position at the recent NATO and U.S.-EU summits in Lisbon. She concluded that the close transatlantic partnership would not be negatively affected by the new majorities in the U.S. Congress. The speech was part of a special Thanksgiving event, and the subsequent dinner was an occasion for further exchanges on the range and depth of German-American relations.



### **Special Representative Farah Pandith Visits NRW**

**November 1-2, 2010.** Farah Pandith, the U.S. State Department's Special Representative to Muslim Communities, visited Duisburg and Duesseldorf during a two-day visit, Nov.1-2. In Duisburg she told students who had just returned from a "Windows on America" tour to keep the momentum of their experience and get actively involved in their community. Also in Duisburg she visited the Merkez Mosque in Marxloh and had an exchange of views with members of the board at the community center. Finally, Consul General Janice Weiner hosted a dinner for Ms. Pandith with the State Secretary Zuelfiye Kaykin, who offered her perspective on what must happen for both immigration and integration to succeed. The second day began with a working breakfast with the chairman of the Turkish German Platform, Engin Olguner, to discuss that NGO's programs to further young entrepreneurs, mentor students and parents, encourage education and be a driver of integration. At the consulate Ms. Pandith addressed a dozen key NRW contacts representing a variety of integration-related organizations in a round table event. She explained that her office responded to the Obama Administration's high priority to engage in a dialogue with Muslim communities based on mutual interests and respect. Her interlocutors also informed her about the current status of integration and she invited all participants to stay engaged and keep her abreast of successful initiatives and activities.



### **CG Weiner Speaks at Integration Event in Duesseldorf**

**October 29, 2010.** Consul General Janice Weiner participated in a panel discussion on the occasion of the International Integration Day organized by Jappoo-NRW at the University of Duesseldorf on October 29. Speaking after NRW State Secretary Zülfiye Kaykin, she explained that the United States had a long history as a land of immigrants and that nearly 60 million Americans in the United States today are either immigrants or first generation Americans. Olaf Lehne, a member of the NRW state parliament, emphasized that NRW and Germany in general needed to attract immigrants in order to keep its economic prosperity. The panelists expressed their appreciation to the Jappoo organization for arranging the day-long event which examined current integration issues in a number of workshops and discussions during the afternoon.



### **Series of "Meet US" Programs at the Consulate**

From October 26 until November 4 the Consulate hosted student groups from six high schools in Duesseldorf, Cologne and Lindlar as part of its "Meet US" outreach activities. The speaker was Consul Chris Grossman who explained the role and the activities of the U.S. Mission to Germany. For the students the visit was also a chance to discuss the mid-term elections on November 2 and to learn about the American electoral system. Consul Grossmann also reviewed the Administration's domestic and foreign agenda and explained how the election results might impact President Obama over the next two years. The students and their teachers appreciated the opportunity to have a discussion with an American diplomat and to see for themselves how the Consulate is organized to represent the U.S. in North Rhine-Westphalia.



### **German American Heritage Day Celebrated at Duisburg City Hall**

**October 6, 2010.** At the celebration of the 2010 German-American Heritage Day on October 6 at Duisburg City Hall, Consul General Janice and veteran U.S. correspondent Don Jordan were awarded honorary memberships of the [German-American Friends Niederrhein](#). In her

speech, Consul General Weiner praised the Association's wide range of activities and their support for student exchange programs. She also quoted from President Obama's letter to German Federal President Christian Wulff congratulating Germany on the 20th anniversary of German unification. The guests at the reception shared the view expressed by President Obama that "our shared devotion to liberty and the rule of law is the foundation of our abiding friendship and transatlantic partnership...as we continue to face the challenges of the 21st century together, I am confident that our bonds will further strengthen and deepen."



### **Panelists In Bonn Support Continued Engagement In Afghanistan**

**September 22, 2010.** At a panel discussion on September 22 jointly arranged by the U.S. Embassy and the Federal Exhibition Hall (Bundeskunsthalle) in Bonn, four women journalists from print and electronic media examined the topic "Women and Children in Afghanistan - The Importance of Education, Politics and Strategies." Moderator

Sandra Petersmann (Deutsche Welle), Susanne Koelbl (Der Spiegel), Ingrid Müller (Tagesspiegel) and Jutta Bielig-Wonka (RTL) drew on their extensive expertise and experience in Afghanistan and provided an informative tour d' horizon on the current situation. They focused on the prospects for improvement in education and the social and political participation of women and agreed that such developments required continued commitment from the West. The panelists also considered on the responsibility of journalists, and notably women journalists, to report in greater detail both the challenges and the advances in Afghanistan in order to provide a more complete picture. The panel discussion was part of a series of public events in support of [the ongoing exhibition "Afghanistan – Surviving Treasures"](#) (until January 2, 2011). Consul General Janice Weiner represented the U.S. Mission at the occasion. | [more photos on the Consulate's Facebook page](#)



### **Consul General Makes First Official Visit to New Minister-President**

**September 22, 2010.** Consul General Janice Weiner made her first official call September 22 to the NRW State Chancellery since the election of the new Minister-President Hannelore Kraft. At the meeting, Weiner and Kraft discussed the relationship between the U.S. and NRW, focusing on

economic ties between the two and Kraft's priority of leaving no NRW child behind. Kraft discussed the integration challenges in Germany and NRW and asked for the Consul General's take on the upcoming U.S. midterm elections. Consul General Weiner noted that it's heartening to see two women, Kraft and Deputy Minister-President Sylvia Loehrmann, in charge of the largest state in Germany, a sentiment that Kraft said she hears frequently when talking to NRW inhabitants, both male and female. | [Photos and press release NRW State Chancellery](#)



## **U.S. Commercial Service Officer Discusses National Export Initiative with Duesseldorf Trade Show Officials**

**September 21-22, 2010.** During their visit to Duesseldorf Sept. 21-22, newly arrived - and former - Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs, John Fogarasi, Berlin, and U.S. Department of Commerce Germany Deputy Desk Officer Paul Bucher, Washington, accompanied by Duesseldorf Consulate senior staff member Anette Salama, met with Duesseldorf

Trade Shows CEO Joachim Schaefer to talk about [the President's National Export Initiative](#) and its impact on U.S. Commercial Service support of Duesseldorf trade shows, in particular premier events such as [K'](#) and [Medica](#). Since German shows are pivot points for global business, the discussion focused on enhancing the International Buyer Program at German shows and on bringing more Commercial Service specialists from other regions of the world to Duesseldorf events by closely cooperating with the trade shows' international offices in major emerging markets such as China, Brazil, and India. | [U.S. Commercial Service Germany](#)



## **Political Analyst Darrell West Speaks on U.S. Midterm Elections**

**September 15 - 16, 2010.** At program events in Cologne and Duesseldorf on September 15 and 16, political analyst [Darrell West from the Brookings Institute](#) engaged audiences on major issues and the use of the media and new technologies in the current election campaigns in the U.S. At a luncheon the Consulate hosted in Cologne, he discussed political developments and the role of the media in the campaigns with

journalists and then gave a [half-hour interview to TV-moderator Roger Horné at regional TV station NRW.TV in Duesseldorf](#). The aspect of television advertising and the use of social media in the ongoing campaigns was the specific focus of an evening lecture at the [Protestant Media Academy in Duesseldorf](#). Finally, on September 16, Darrell West was the speaker at a discussion on mid-term election issues at a breakfast hosted by Consul General Janice Weiner for politicians, state government officials and journalists. The events provided platforms for a timely and in-depth discussion of current campaign issues, campaign financing and also the polarization in American politics.



## **A Look at History - The Former U.S. Embassy in Bonn**

**September 8, 2010.** On September 8, Consul General Janice Weiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Ilse Aigner and Bonn Lord Mayor Juergen Nimptsch were among the guests at [a ceremony at the Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food \(BLE\) in Bonn](#) where the Agency celebrated its fifth anniversary at its Bonn location. In her

remarks, Consul General Weiner congratulated BLE-Director Dr. Hanns-Christoph Eiden on the anniversary and referred to the truly historic address of the Agency: Deichmanns Aue 29, which until 1955 served as the seat of U.S. High Commissioner John McCloy and until 1999 as U.S. Embassy. In the Embassy's conference room the Bonn Convention was signed on May 5, 1955 which ended the Occupation Statute and gave the Federal Republic of Germany sovereignty. In 1999 the U.S. Embassy moved to Berlin. | [Photo Gallery](#)





### **Consul General Weiner Hosts Iftar Dinner in Duesseldorf**

**September 7, 2010.** On September 7, Consul General Janice Weiner hosted an Iftar dinner at her residence for a group of 20 important contacts from politics, business, religion and the media. In her welcoming remarks the Consul General stressed the value of Iftar evenings for the interaction and dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims and emphasized the Mission's efforts to continue the engagement on integration issues. She used this opportunity to read from both [Secretary Clinton's](#) and the [President's Iftar message](#) emphasizing that "Ramadan is a reminder that Islam has always been part of America." | [The President's Ramadan Message](#)



### **Congressman John Lewis Speaks on Diversity and U.S. Politics**

**September 2, 2010.** [Congressman John Lewis](#), often called "one of the most courageous persons the civil rights movement ever produced," spoke at a series of public program events in Bonn, Cologne and Duesseldorf this week. On September 2, he participated in a roundtable discussion on "Managing Diversity: The Challenges of Successful Integration in the U.S.

and Germany" at German national radio "Deutschlandfunk," moderated by editor-in-chief Stefan Detjen. Afterwards he gave an [interview](#) on President Obama's accomplishments, the upcoming midterm elections, the Tea Party movement and Martin Luther King's dream which was broadcast during DLF's prime news magazine "Informationen am Morgen" on September 3. | [Listen to the interview](#)



### **Philadanco Gives Spectacular Performance in Duesseldorf**

**August 25, 2010.** The [Philadanco dance company](#) from Philadelphia gave a spectacular performance to open the 10th [International Dance Festival](#) at the Capitol Theater in Duesseldorf on August 25, celebrated by an audience of 1,000. The Festival is the leading international platform for contemporary dance; this year it serves as meeting point, networking

forum, marketplace and showcase for 230 participating dancers from 29 countries. Consul General Janice Weiner co-hosted the opening reception and introduced [Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Professional and Cultural Exchanges Maura Pally](#) to the German hosts and the American dancers. Also participating were Andrea Snyder, President of [Dance USA](#), and Douglas Sonntag, Director of Dance at the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), and Anke Brunn, President of the [German Association of Contemporary Dance](#). In addition to performing at the festival the dancers will also engage in workshops and panel discussions.



### **Ambassador Murphy Visits Gay Games Cologne 2010**

**August 2, 2010.** On August 2 Ambassador Philip Murphy visited the [Gay Games in Cologne](#), one of the biggest sports and cultural festivals in the world. An estimated 10,000 participants from over 70 countries are participating responding to festival's motto "Be part of it!" Hosted by Cologne Mayor Angela Spizig and the Co-Presidents of the Federation of

Gay Games, Emy Ritt and Kurt Dahl, the Ambassador attended several sports events (soccer, swimming, diving, water polo and volleyball) engaging the participants as well as officials from the U.S. and Germany on the tradition of the Gay Games and sports in general. At the swimming and diving contests the Ambassador also presented medals to the winners. The visit in Cologne included a tour of the city's renowned Sports University where the Ambassador was briefed on

the role of Institute of Biochemistry in anti-doping testing and preventive measures. Officials from the Federation of Gay Games and the active participants appreciated the visit of the Ambassador and his support for the Gay Games as a great festival promoting diversity and tolerance. | [!\[\]\(50ba758255c5d7cec2761495a31c7c80\_img.jpg\) Photo gallery](#) | [Video of the interview with Radio Koeln](#)



### **"Dancing to Connect" - Magical Dance Performances in Witten**

**July 13, 2010.** At a gala performance at the Saalbau Theater in Witten on July 13, dancers of the New York [Battery Dance Company](#) and Drastic Action together with students from schools in Aachen, Bochum-Wattenscheid, Essen-Kray and Witten treated their audience to a series of creative and spell-binding choreographies. In weeklong workshops the U.S. professionals and the students jointly developed a variety of choreographies dedicated to the theme of "integration/exclusion." At the opening Consul General Janice Weiner thanked project director Jonathan Hollander and production designer David Bengali for their initiative and also noted the generous support of a great number of individuals and organizations which enabled nearly 100 students from NRW to participate in this absorbing 'Dancing to Connect' project. | [!\[\]\(99f58673407353e96a019fbca558fd72\_img.jpg\) Photo Gallery](#) | [Video clips currently being uploaded to the Consulate's YouTube Channel](#)



### **Consulate Celebrates 234th Independence Day In Duesseldorf**

**July 5, 2010.** At the Consulate's Fourth of July reception at the [International School of Duesseldorf \(ISD\)](#) in Kaiserwerth on July 5, Consul General Janice Weiner was able to welcome over 400 guests from all over North Rhine Westphalia. Landtag Vice President Angela Freimuth, the President of the District Government Juergen Buessow and Duesseldorf Mayor Dr. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann expressed good wishes on the 234th birthday of the United States and praised the close German-American partnership. In her welcome remarks, Consul General Weiner thanked the audience for their support for bilateral relations and quoted excerpts from [President Obama's Fourth of July Message](#). The Elmar Frey Trio and dance performances by the [Battery Dance Company](#) from New York provided entertainment, and many U.S. partners and sponsors provided authentic American food and drink. | [!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b\_img.jpg\) Photo gallery](#) | [Videos available at the Consulate's YouTube channel](#)